

CALFED OPERATIONS MEETING NOTES
Wednesday, September 25, 2013
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

SWRCB Update (R. Satkowski)

Phase I – Revised Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for Phase I (San Joaquin River flow standards) will be re-issued in early 2014. There will be another comment period, so people need to submit comments again if they wish.

Phase II – SWRCB staff have been working with DSC Delta Science staff; there will be two additional workshops held to collect information for the SWRCB : Workshop 1 will be on Delta Outflow needs and will be held November 12th through 14th; the expert panel will provide their draft findings; Workshop 2 will be on Interior Delta flow needs and will be scheduled sometime in January 2014.

Fisheries Update

Chinook Salmon, Steelhead and Green Sturgeon (B. Byrne) – Chinook juveniles: WR juveniles are starting to show up in the north watershed, some WR sized juveniles have been caught at the GCID rotary screw traps. Chinook adults: WR adults have likely migrated out of watershed; spring-run adults are present and spawning now; fall-run adults are arriving and are likely to exhibit peak spawning in November.

Winter-Run (WR) – Through mid-August, 2991 winter-run carcasses have been observed in the Sacramento River, which is the highest count to date since 2006 and more than double last year's count at this time (1311). WR red counts follow a similar pattern of 569 to date, more than double last year's count (261) and the highest since 2006.

Fall-Run – Have limited fall-run data so far. Data from the Stanislaus Weir shows 62 chinook passing upstream since September 13, with the majority arriving since September 19.

Green Sturgeon – Still none caught this year.

Delta smelt (E. Gleason) – NTR, no activity.

Longfin smelt (C. Dibble) - NTR

Workgroup Updates

DOSS – Has been on summer break, will begin meeting again next month

SOG - Met last Wednesday, 9/18. The primary topic of discussion was the reshaping of the fall pulse flow, in coordination with the pulses planned on the Merced & Tuolumne.

Reasonable and prudent alternative (RPA) Action III.1.3 -- The Appendix 2-E minimum flow schedule for the Dry yeartype (based on the New Melones Water supply parameter, not the San Joaquin “60-20-20” Index) currently requires a flow of 200 cubic feet per second (cfs) below Goodwin Dam. The 200 cfs requirement is in effect until mid-October, when a fall pulse flow is scheduled. Since September 1, Goodwin releases have been between 202 and 213cfs. SOG discussed the fall pulse flow last week and is drafting advice to NMFS; the current proposal is to use the available pulse volume (approximately 26,775 AF) to provide a reshaped pulse (including a small “pre-pulse” and a larger main pulse, peaking for one day at 2000 cfs) between mid-October and early November.

RPA Action III.1.2 – The criterion calls for temperature (measured as the seven day average of daily maximum temperature, or 7DADM) to be below 65°F at OBB, with some exceptions allowed. Since September 1, maximum temperatures at OBB have ranged between 60.2°F&65.4°F, with daily max temperature below 65°F since 9/4/13. As of 9/24/13, the 7DADM at OBB is 61.7°F. The temperature criterion at OBB changes from 65°F to 56°F on October 1st or as of the initiation date of the fall pulse flow; in past years the fall criterion has been implemented as of the initiation date of the fall pulse flow. SOG is currently drafting advice regarding the initiation date of the temperature criterion; the advice will likely implement the fall criterion in mid-October at the start of the main pulse component of the reshaped pulse flow

Annual Review of the NMFS and FWS opinions on long-term operations of the CVP & SWP- Scheduled in Sacramento for Wednesday November 6th (all day) and Thursday November 7th (afternoon only; panel deliberates in the morning)

Water Project Operations

CVP – Keswick @ 6750 cfs, 6250 cfs on Friday; Nimbus @ 1500 cfs, 1200-1300 cfs by mid next week; Goodwin @ 200 cfs; Jones PP @ 2600 (3 units), 3300 cfs tomorrow; San Luis (Fed share) @ 210 TAF

SWP – Oroville @ 1750 cfs; Clifton Court @ 4500 cfs; Freeport approx. 11,000 cfs, Delta Outflow approx. 4,600 cfs and Vernalis approx. 1300 cfs; San Luis (State share) @ 290 TAF.